

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 210745Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5173
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 5619

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, IS, US, DA
SUBJECT: PERES SPEAKS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE-EAST, THE WEST
BANK AND THE UNITED STATES

1. FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES, LEADER OF ISRAEL'S LABOR PARTY, IS ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM 15 FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO ARE HERE AS OBSERVERS AT THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PART. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONGRESS, WHICH ENDS TODAY, WILL BE REPORTED SEPEL. THE PRESENT TELEGRAMS QUOTES FROM A PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PERES WHICH APPEARED OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE COPENHAGEN DAILY POLITIKEN (LEF-OF-CENTER, PRO-ISRAEL).

2. PERES SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION TO ESTABLISH LONG-TERM "RULE" OVER THE PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER. "WE DO NOT CONSIDER
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OURSELVES TO BE BRILLIANT ADMINISTRATORS OF THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER PEOPLE--AFTER ALL, WE CAN BARELY MANAGE OUR OWN." AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, NECESSARY ISRAELI SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE WEST BANK ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR LONG RANGE AIMS, PERES REPORTEDLY SAID.

3. ACCORDING TO POLITIKEN, PERES DOES NOT CONCUR THAT THE "OCCUPATION POLICY" IS AS DECISIVE AS CARTER DESCRIBES IT. "AFTER ALL, NO MORE THAN 8,000 PEOPLE LIVE IN ALL THE SETTLEMENTS TOGETHER BEHIND THE "GREEN LINE". PERES DECLINED TO DESCRIBE THE LABOR PARTY'S "OWN PLANS" FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST BANK AND CONTINUED THAT GIVEN THE "RIGHT TERMS" THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT ITSELF MIGHT AGREE TO ABANDON THESE SETTLEMENTS.

4. PERES SAID THAT HIS PARTY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CHANCES OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR ARE GREAT AND THAT HE PREFERRED NEGOTIATIONS BY QUIET DIPLOMACY RATHER THAN A "GLAMOROUS CONFERENCE."

5. IN DISCUSSING THE PLO, PERES SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THAT ORGANIZATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, PERES WAS "NOT ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE PALESTINIANS IN A JOINT ARAB DELEGATION. IN DISCUSSING PLO RECOGNITION OF RESOLUTION 242, PERES SAID IN EFFECT THAT QUESTION WAS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE CHARTER OF THE PLO WHICH CONTINUES TO DEMAND THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL.

6. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING
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THE RISK OF A NEW MIDDLE-EAST WAR, PERES STATED, "THE FEELING IN ISRAEL IS THAT A WAR IS UNAVOIDABLE AND PEACE IS OUT OF REACH."
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